

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of inducing pro-inflammatory effects in synovial cells, comprising:  
exposing a plurality of synovial cells to a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 2.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide has pro-inflammatory effects on human synovial cells.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide induces expression of cell adhesion molecules in human synovial cells.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide has pro-inflammatory effects on synovial cells of a rheumatoid joint of a patient.
5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
6. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative of the peptide of Claim 1.

7. An analog of a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 2, wherein proline 4 comprises an amide form of proline, the analog being substantially ineffective at inducing expression or production of cell adhesion molecules, or cell adhesion messengers, in synovial cells.
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the analog of Claim 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
9. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative of the analog of Claim 7.
10. A method of treating or preventing inflammation of synovial joint in a subject by administering an effective amount of the analog of Claim 7.
11. A method of treating or preventing rheumatoid arthritis in a subject by administering an effective amount of the analog of Claim 7.

12. A method of inducing pro-inflammatory effects in fibroblastic cells, comprising:  
exposing a plurality of fibroblastic cells to a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the fibroblastic cells comprise human lung fibroblastic cells.

14. A method of identifying a receptor for a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 2, comprising exposing a plurality of fibroblastic cells to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 2.

15. A method of identifying a receptor for a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 2, comprising exposing a plurality of synovial cells to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 2.

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